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Kentucky wheat crop rebounding

Gleaner staff
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Kentucky's winter wheat crop is rebounding strongly from last year's frost-bitten crop, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Friday.

The state's wheat crop, which will be harvested in June, is estimated at 29.7 million bushels, up from just 12.25 million bushels in 2007. The 2006 crop was 22.7 million bushels.

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This year's yield is projected at 66 bushels per acre, up from just 49 bushels in 2007. But even that exaggerates last year's true yield, since many acres were so badly damaged by a hard April freeze that they were abandoned or converted to livestock forage or hay.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.78 billion bushels, up 17 percent from 2007.

The expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 40.2 million acres, up 12 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.3 bushels per acre, up 2.1 bushels from the previous year.

Hard red production is up 5 percent from a year ago to 1.01 billion bushels. Soft red production is up 54 percent and totals 551 million bushels. White production totals 215 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago.

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